



# THE BHAKTIVEDANTA BOOK TRUST

SPANISH DIVISION

Founder-Acarya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

3784 WATSEKA AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90034 U.S.A. • TWX 910 340-7062/TEL. (213) 559-8540

11/18/77

P B6

DD265

United States Embassy  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Nov 18, 1977

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this report in response to recent human and religious rights violations concerning "The International Society for Krishna Consciousness", the "Hare Krishna Movement", or "La Asociacion Internacional para la Conciencia de Krishna". This Society, founded originally by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, was started with the intention of giving freely, knowledge of spiritual life and at the same time fulfill one's social responsibility. Of course, today the banner of inalienable human rights has grown in import, but the real inalienable rights are the rights of the soul, eternal rights. As of approximately 1 year the Argentine Government has prohibited the existence of our Society, which is simply interested in the spiritual welfare of the whole society. This should be considered an international crime in the eyes of the worlds' Gov'ts. I, myself, as of 3 days ago was put in jail simply for observing a wake for our beloved Spiritual Master, who, at the advanced age of 84 years, gloriously left this planet. This social policy is unbecoming of a civilized society, and, although their own constitution prohibits religious obstruction, and the freedoms therein, the gov't in Argentina persists in their persecutions of our members as if they were common criminals. Literally millions of people (especially in India), accept Krishna as God, and in literally 90% of all American Universities there are standing orders for all 60 volumes of our books. Unfortunately, these same books that have received great acclaim amongst learned scholars all over the world, here in Argentina, are treated as something against the morality of the people. In Argentina approximately \$40,000 US worth of books have been confiscated by the gov't, the printing costs of which, have come from American funds.

We beg you to try and present this problem to the Argentine Government and try to make them understand this most basic of violations. The U.S. was started on the basis of these basic freedoms of religion, and it would be incorrect for it now to overlook these basic discrepancies. We are asking that the decreto that prohibited the liberty of our Society, be rescinded, and stricken from the Argentine Law Books. One may rationalize that under martial law some restrictions must be taken, but why against an organization that has centers in every major American city, and is known for it's passivist philosophy? We again beg you to push this point and beg pardon for any inconvenience.

I remain,

Yours truly,

*John M. Gilbakian*

John M. Gilbakian  
Sub-director  
Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B6

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

B6

80F178  
22/185